

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5847

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SEC VISIT: BIO SKETCHES FOR MRS. KISSINGER

REF KABUL 5845

1. MRS. SAMAD GHAS, WIFE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WILL ACT AS MRS. KISSINGER'S HOSTESS FOR KABUL VISIT. ZULEIKHA GHAS IS AN ATTRACTIVE, ENGAGING, THOROUGHLY WESTERNIZED WOMAN WHO LIVED ABOUT TEN YEARS IN THE U.S. (1961-1971) WHILE HER HUSBAND WAS ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IN NEW YORK SHE STUDIED DRESSMAKING AND DESIGN, USED TO RUN HER OWN BOUTIQUE IN KABUL, BUT NOW WORKS AS AN ASSISTANT TO A UNITED NATIONS VETERINARY ADVISER. SHE HAS TWO DAUGHTERS AND ONE SON. (ANOTHER SON BORN LATE IN 1973 DIED A FEW MONTHS LATER.) SHE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH.

2. IF MRS. KISSINGER VISITS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION SHE WILL MEET MS. KUBRA NOORZAI, PRESIDENT OF THAT BODY. MISS KUBRA (AS SHE PREFERS TO BE ADDRESSED) ABOUT 50, COMPLETED HER POST-GRADUATE WORK AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS DURING THE 50'S. SHE HAS MADE TWO TRIPS TO THE UNITED STATES, BUT SPEAKS ONLY FAIR ENGLISH. FRENCH IS HER FIRST FOREIGN LANGUAGE. MISS KUBRA HAS FOR TWO DECADES BEEN IN

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THE FOREFRONT OF THE BATTLE FOR EMANCIPATION OF

AFGHAN WOMEN. SHE WAS THE FIRST AFGHAN WOMAN TO
BECOME A CABINET MINISTER (MINISTER OF HEALTH, 1965)
AND REPRESENTED THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AT INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S CONFERENCES AS FAR BACK AS 1957. DESCRIBED
AS DIGNIFIED AND BUSINESSLIKE, MISS KUBRA IS THE
MOST VISIBLE WOMAN IN AFGHAN PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF HER PROMINENT ROLE DURING
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR.
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